

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9430

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PANAM SCHEDULES; CHANGES IN CIVIL AIR OFFICIALS

REF: BA 9350

LIMA FOR FAA

1. FOLLOWING UP ON AMB'S CALL ON ECONMIN GOMEZ MORALES CONCERNING PANAM'S SCHEDULING PROBLEM, ECONCOUNS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH TRANSPORT SUBSECRETARY CERRAJERIA ON JAN 2. CERRAJERIA WAS AWARE OF THE AMB'S CALL BUT SAID THERE WAS AS YET NO DECISION REGARDING PANAM. HE HAD RECEIVED AN OPINION FROM HIS LEGAL ADVISOR WHICH WAS APPARENTLY FAVORABLE AND THOUGHT THAT THE MATTER MIGHT BE RESOLVED "BEFORE VERY LONG".

2. ON JAN 3 EMBASSY LEARNED THAT RUMORS WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATING HERE ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES IN DNTAC OFFICIALS WERE CORRECT. MAJOR CHANGES OF PERSONNEL BOTH IN DNTAC AND IN AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. WITHIN THE DNTAC, WITTE AND THREE OR FOUR OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED, IN EFFECT, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOA REDUNDANCY LAW. BRIGADIER (RET) NEME, CHIEF OF DNTAC WAS NOT AFFECTED ALTHOUGH HIS STATUS AT THE MOMENT IS NOT CLEAR AND IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER HE WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE. IN A
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SURPRISE MOVE LAST WEEKEND, AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS PRESIDENT

GUASCO AND GENERAL MANAGER PELLEGRINI SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS TO MINISTER OF ECONOMY. THAT OF GUASCO HAS BEEN ACCEPTED, BUT WE UNDERSTOOD THE MINISTRY IS ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE PELLEGRINI TO STAY ON.

3. WE DO NOT YET HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE AS TO WHAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE. WE UNDERSTAND THE CHANGES IN DNTAC WERE MADE UNDER ORDERS OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (MRS. PERON), MAINLY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE DNTAC'S HANDLING OF BILATERAL TALKS WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES, RECENTLY BRAZIL, CANADA AND VENEZUELA. AS TO THE AEROLINEAS OFFICIALS, ONE STORY HAS THAT THERE WAS SOME IRREGULARITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED LEASE OF A WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER NEGOTIATION. ACCORDING TO QUITE A DIFFERENT STORY, GUASCO AND PELLEGRINI RESIGNED IN PROTEST AT DEMANDS FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF TRANSPORT THAT SOME 16 LOWER-RANKING EMPLOYEES OF AEROLINEAS BE DISCHARGED.

4. SO FAR, NO SUCCESSORS TO EITHER THE DNTAC OR AEROLINEAS POSITIONS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION, HOWEVER, ONE NAME MENTIONED AS A REPLACEMENT FOR GUASCO BEING A SR. ROSSO, PRESENTLY A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE GOA TOURISM ORGANIZATION (SEE ALSO BUENOS AIRES DAO REPORT IR 6 804 0008 74 OF JAN 7).

5. COMMENT: REGARDLESS OF THE REASONS FOR THESE CHANGES, THE DEPARTURE OF WITTE FROM DNTAC IS A PLUS FOR US/GOA CIVIL AIR RELATIONS. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER AS THE SITUATION STABILIZES.
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